

7/2

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/696,031	NAGANO, HIROYUKI
	Examiner James W. Cranson	Art Unit 2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 6/02/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 7-11.
3. The drawings filed on 30 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see amendment , filed 6/2/05, with respect to office action mailed 3/16/2005 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection to claims 1-6 in the office action of 3/16/2005 has been withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Applicant states that there is no prohibition in the patent application against the claim structure being used with either of decorative panels 41 or 61 and there is no intention of limiting the claims to any particular embodiment. Examiner has reconsidered and agrees with applicant.

Response to Amendment

The rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by USPN 6,820,875 to Hedrick et al in the office action mailed 3/16/05 is withdrawn because Applicant amended claim 1 to add the subject indicated allowable in claim 6.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 has a gaming machine comprising a cabinet, a light source, a decorative panel, disposed in front of light source, including a first surface on which light is incident, support means provided within cabinet for supporting decorative panel at first surface, a frame, detachably attached to cabinet, including a back face for supporting the decorative panel at a second surface of decorative panel, opposite the first surface, when frame is secured to cabinet and a cover attached to back face of frame, exposing a peripheral part of the first surface of the decorative panel, covering light source, and having an opening directed toward frame, wherein a space for accommodating the decorative panel is located between cover and face of frame. This combination of limitations is not found or taught in the art of record.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Independent claim 7 adds the limitation that the support in claim 1 is resilient. This added limitation makes claim 7 more specific than claim 1 and is allowable for the same reasons as set forth above for claim 1.

Claims 8-11 depend from claim 7 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James W. Cranson whose telephone number is 571-272-2368. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30A.M.- 5:00P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandy O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).





THOMAS M. SEMPER
PRIMARY EXAMINER